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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Platov Link Road Layer Used by Soviet Railway Units

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1. "For laying new railroads or reconstructing existing ones, Soviet railway units are provided with a Platov link road layer."
2. "The Platov link road layer lays a 'link of the railroad' (rails attached to sleepers, each link 12.5 m. long) in front of itself. The road layer is assembled on a four-axle flat car and consists of a system of rollers and side frames, which take a 'package of road links' (containing 10 links or 125 m. of railroad).
3. "The flat car is topped with an electric crane which seizes the topmost link, carries it to the front on rollers and smoothly lowers it onto the ground; 1.5 minutes are required for this operation. After the link has been put down and attached to the preceding one, the road layer moves onto the laid link and repeats the operation. The road layer is followed by a 'motor-charging flat car' which has a system of rollers for charging the road layer with new packages.
4. "The Platov road layer lays railroad links even on curved parts of the road. For this it uses special 'packages of shortened road links'. Such packages are made up on special order at the nearest 'link assembly base'.
5. "The Platov road layer can also very quickly disassemble a railroad laid by links. By means of its crane, it lifts the links of the road and loads them. After 10 links have been loaded, they are clamped together and dragged to the transport flat car at the back by means of an electric motor.
6. "For undoing the rails, the railway units are provided with 'rail undoers'. A rail undoer is a steel sleigh dragged along the sleepers between the rails, which tears the rails from the sleepers and casts them aside. This steel sleigh, which is dragged by an engine, has a normal breadth between the rails in its front part and is considerably broader in the middle and at the back. Moving between the rails, the back part of the sleigh pushes them to the sides and tears them from the sleepers."

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